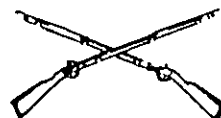




Major General John W. Foss

Chief of Infantry

Commandant's NOTE



The Army is standardizing tasks and duties to save training time and to promote combat effectiveness. For if the simple repetitive tasks appropriate to a soldier's duties are standardized, then our soldiers can be immediately effective when we move them either from the training base into units or from one unit to another.

Standardization varies at different levels: There are certain things all soldiers must do in the same way — saluting or putting on protective masks, for instance — either because it is the best way or because it is essential to the uniformity expected from an army. For the same reasons, at the team or crew level, tasks that call for interaction, such as fire commands or the firing crew duties in a Bradley, must be standardized.

Today, higher up the chain of command, our tactical principles and terminology have been standardized, and, at the highest level, we operate from a standardized doctrine.

Standardization, therefore, is intended to apply where it makes sense; it is not intended to overly restrict a commander's flexibility in his tactical thinking or in his appreciation of a particular situation. We in the Infantry can meet the Army's objective, but only if we can develop a standardization program that is the product of a joint effort between the Infantry School as proponent and our Infantry commanders.

That program must focus on three key areas or "basic subsystems" of the Infantry — the soldiers themselves, their training, and their equipment. At the present time, some of the typical standardization activities we are looking at include CMF 11 promotion and quality criteria, initial-entry and one-station unit training, drill and SQT development, NCO Academy and Basic NCO Course accreditation, SOPs, load plans, and maintenance doctrine.

We are also working on the standardization of certain other specific activities:

Battle Drills. In the Tactical Leadership Course (the subject of my note in the July-August 1984 issue of *INFANTRY*), we have standardized task and procedure execution, but we execute tactics flexibly and inno-

vatively. And because trainers realize the value of the 20 battle drills that are included in the course, we are preparing a standardization training program for light infantry units and putting it into packets for eventual distribution and use throughout the world.

Bradley IFV Training. Our 11M training courses for soldiers assigned to the Bradley-equipped battalions have standardized the instruction on the vehicles themselves as well as on their proper employment.

Maintenance Certification. In our Officer Basic Course, we conduct maintenance certification programs in four areas: weapons, communications, NBC, and vehicles. Each of the four programs is taught by a committee so that the training remains the same from one class to the next. (The School also conducts certification training on vehicles for its Officer Advanced Course and Advanced NCO Course students and will expand that to include certification in weapons, communications, and NBC.)

An important part of all our standardization efforts is the feedback we get from the field. One way we get that feedback is by sending the Infantry Liaison Team from the School's Directorate of Evaluation and Standardization to visit Infantry brigade-sized units throughout the world. During these visits, the team members talk to commanders, staff officers, trainers, and soldiers to get their views on Infantry training and equipment. Our focus is on the total organization; to ensure success, there is total schoolhouse involvement.

In addition, the School uses its Infantry Hotline to gather feedback and to help units solve their problems. This hotline gives Infantry leaders a direct point of contact in the School. (The AUTOVON number for the Infantry Hotline is 835-7693.)

We are continuing to work on standardizing many of our institutional training programs. Through these efforts, and with your help, we are doing a better job, we believe, of maintaining the high state of readiness and training that professional Infantry soldiers must have.